

Serial No. 10/658,306, filed 9/9/2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are presently pending in the application. New claims 21-26 have been added by this amendment and read on the elected species. Claim 14 is in independent form.

Figure 7 has been amended to address the informality noted by the Examiner.

Paragraph 27 has been amended to correct the reference numeral noted by the Examiner.

Claims 14, 17 and 20 have been amended to address the Examiner's objections to those claims.

Claim 18-20 were rejected under §112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended those claims to overcome the rejection.

Claim 14 was rejected under §102(b) over each of Christenson and Robey. Claim 14 has been amended to recite that each of the first and second spaced apart longitudinal members includes a downwardly depending hanger for supporting forward and rearward suspension assemblies. The suspension assemblies are shown in Figure 1. The claimed hangers are not shown in the references. For example, Robey discloses separate spring and shackle assemblies 26 to support each of the forward and rearward axles. The other reference is relied upon by the Examiner do no disclose any structure for supporting the axles relative to the suspension slider.

Claims 21-23 further define the claimed hanger structure. Claim 21 recites an inverted U-shaped hanger. Claim 22 recites that the hanger is provided by a unitary wall. Claim 23 recites that laterally spaced vertical walls support the suspension assemblies. None of the features of claims 21-23 are disclosed by the references.

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Claims 24-26 recite additional features with respect to the vertical member. Claim 24 recites that the vertical member forms an I-beam structure with the first and second plates. Claim 25 recites that the vertical member includes lightening holes. Claim 26 recites that the vertical member is spaced from the longitudinal members. This is contrasted with, for example, the vertical wall in Garcia that extends all the way to the longitudinal members to which they are secured.

Claim 1 was amended to depend from claim 14. Claim 14 is generic to all of the pending claims and Figures. Claim 1 recites a bent lateral member that is shown, for example, in Figures 5A-5C. The bent lateral member can be used in any number of novel slider arrangements such as those shown in Figures 2-4 and 6.

Please charge \$300.00 for 6 additional claims in excess of 20 to Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If any fees or extensions of time are required, please charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

William S. Gottschalk
Registration No. 44,130
400 W. Maple, Suite 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

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